

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Other Options for Overcrowding and Rehabilitation Reforms

- ***Build Only Enough Facilities to Keep Pace with Existing Overcrowding***

This option assumes that CDCR would build new housing units at current existing prisons, and build three new prisons and that all nontraditional beds currently being utilized would remain activated. This approach provides a challenge to increase rehabilitation opportunities if space is restricted by the nontraditional beds.

The Department of Finance has estimated the total cost of this option to approach \$3.6 billion. The Legislature and media statewide was briefed on the financial estimates on August 1.

Under this scenario, sometime between June 2007 and March 2008 CDCR would be unable to accept male convicted felons in excess of the number of persons that parole from CDCR facilities. These inmates would have to be housed in county jail facilities until CDCR could expand sufficient capacity. Under existing law, counties would be reimbursed by the state.

- Specifically Penal Code Section 4016.5 mandates that counties be reimbursed for the cost of housing prisoners sentenced to state prison if the CDCR is unable to accept delivery of the prisoner within five days. By March 2008, it is estimated (based on current population trends) that 4,697 male convicted felons will be redirected from prison to local jail housing. .

County jails would be severely impacted

- Many county jails do not currently have enough existing capacity to even house pre-trial and post-dispositional offenders within their system. Current information from the Corrections Standards Authority reports that in calendar year 2005, 83,979 pre-trial and 138,715 post-dispositional offenders were released due to lack of capacity within the State's county jail system.

In April 2008, the first of the proposed new housing would be complete and ready for activation. It is projected that in February 2009, the CDCR would have the capacity to keep pace with the expected growth in population and no more inmates would be held in county jails. At that point, new housing construction is proposed at a rate to keep pace only with the expected growth in population.

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Despite these new beds, under this scenario, all male nontraditional beds would continue to be utilized, restricting the ability to expand programming opportunities to inmates and indefinitely continuing severe overcrowding conditions.

This concept assumes that the female nontraditional beds would remain activated and that the Female Rehabilitative Community Correctional Centers would be brought on only to maintain population growth. Using this assumption CDCR would be able to house projected female inmate growth without impact to county jail systems.

- ***Do Not Construct or Contract for any Additional Beds***

Population projections indicate that by June 2007 CDCR will run out of existing capacity needed to house prisoners. As a result, CDCR would notify counties that it would only be able to accept prisoners at a rate equal to prisoner releases.

This concept would require county jails to house felons sentenced to state prison within the county jail system.

- By June 2016, it is estimated that the total number of felons sentenced to state prison needing to be housed in county jails would equal close to 26,000 inmates
- Another 19,800 inmates would continue to be housed in nontraditional beds within the prison system, restricting the ability to expand programming opportunities to inmates and indefinitely continuing severe overcrowding conditions.